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Education.

Scholarships to girl pupils.

* 1490 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) why scholarships for girls awarded by the Educational Department are given only from Form I onwards;

(*b*) whether the Government consider it advisable to award scholarships at least in the case of depressed class girls from IV standard or V standard upwards with a view to spread female education among them;

(*c*) whether the Government observe any age restrictions also while awarding scholarships; and

(*d*) if so, how the age restrictions are observed in the case of girl students reading in municipal areas and those reading in non-municipal areas?

A.—(*a*) Some special scholarships are awarded to Mappilla girls and Hindu and Muhammadan widows from standard IV. General scholarships are awarded only from Form I in secondary schools and standard VI in elementary schools because there is a considerable falling off in the strength of Form I as compared with the strength of Class V, the maximum fee up to standard V of an elementary school being only one anna a month. The scholarships are awarded to induce pupils to continue their education beyond the primary school stage.

(*b*) Scholarships tenable from standards IV and V are being awarded by the Labour Department to pupils belonging to depressed classes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) In regard to ordinary scholarships, no difference is made in the matter of age between girls reading in municipal areas and girls reading in non-municipal areas. In the case of special scholarships for pupils of the depressed classes awarded by the Labour Department, however, the age limit is two years higher in non-municipal areas than in municipal areas. With effect from the next school year this difference will be abolished.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"In the answer given to clause (*a*) I find in the first part: 'Some special scholarships are awarded to Mappilla girls and Hindu and Muhammadan widows from standard IV.' Considering the poverty of the depressed classes, may I know, Sir, why the same concession was not extended or allowed to the members of the depressed classes?",

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A P. PATRO:—"I cannot add anything to the answer already given."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"I do not hear anything. May I know why age restrictions are imposed while awarding scholarships to the depressed classes?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Because the pupils of the depressed classes join late in life. Therefore certain restrictions are necessary in their own interests."

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Mr. R. Veerian :—" With reference to clause (*d*) I find that, with effect from the next school year, this difference will be abolished. Well, Sir, may I know whether, until then—until that happy day comes—we ought to leave the school for want of encouragement? What are we to do?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—" I cannot give any opinion. It is left to the hon. Member."

Mr. R. Veerian :—" With regard to clause (*b*) it is stated that scholarships tenable from standards IV and V are being awarded by the Labour Department to pupils belonging to depressed classes. May I know why the Government should impose such restrictions?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—" It is a matter of administrative necessity, Sir."

Prayers of the deputations of the committees of the Catholic Association of South Kanara.

* 1491 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state what orders have been passed or are contemplated to be passed on the several prayers of the deputations of the committees of the Catholic Association of South Kanara and of the Kanara Indian Christian Civic League, presented to the hon. the Minister during his visit to Mangalore last year, so far as the Educational Department is concerned, as to (i) recognition of the Catholic Indian Secular clergy and pastors as secondary trained teachers, (ii) larger grants-in-aid, (iii) fixed dates for publication of results of examinations and (iv) due representation of Christians in the District Educational Council?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 1445.

Excise.

Consumption of opium in Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Kistna districts.

* 1492 Q.—Mr. P. C. Venkatapatiraju : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state the quantity of opium consumed in each year by the people of each taluk in the districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Godavari and Kistna for the last ten years?

A.—The Government have no information but have called for a report.

Co-operative Societies.

Work done by Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies.

* 1493 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the newly appointed Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies are now doing only the same work which they were doing as Assistant Registrars or whether any non-credit work has been actually attempted by them;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that some of them are attending meetings of co-operative societies throughout the month to the neglect of more important duties; and